

Message Text

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11

ACTION XMB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 SCEM-02 NSC-10

SS-15 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 H-03 SAJ-01 DOTE-00 FPC-01

RSR-01 /164 W

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R 300757Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5705

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9705

E.O. 11652: GBS

TAGS: ENRG, JA, US, UR

SUBJECT: SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT YAKUTSK GAS

DEPT PASS EXIM FOR HENRY KEARNS

REF: A. TOKYO 9662; B. TOKYO 9275

SUMMARY: SUMITA, PRESIDENT OF JAPAN EXPORT-IMPORT BANK,
NOW HOPES VISIT WASHINGTON AND MEET WITH US EXIMBANK
PRESIDENT KEARNS ON AUGUST 20. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT OF JAPANESE EXPORT-IMPORT BAN, SATOSHI
SUMITA, CALLED ON ECONCOM/MIN. JULY 28 FOR FURTHER
DISCUSSION OF SUMITA'S POSSIBLE VISIT TO US EXIMBANK
(SEE REFTEL A). SUMITA SAID THAT HE NOW TALKING WITH
SOVIETS RE DATE OF VISIT TO SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE BANK
TO DISCUSS NECESSARY CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR YAKUTSKI GAS
EXPLORATION PROJECT. HIS FIRST CHOICE FOR DATE OF VISIT
TO MOSCOW WAS AUGUST 22-23, OR SHORTLY BEFORE SOVIET
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE OSIPOV SCHEDULED TO LEAD
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TEAM TO US TO DISCUSS YAKUTSKI PROJECT. SINCE HE

BELIEVED IT BENEFICIAL FOR HIM TO MEET KEARNS AND EXIM OFFICIALS JUST PRIOR VISIT TO MOSCOW, HE ASKED ECONCOM/MIN TO DETERMINE WHETHER AUGUST 20 MIGHT BE CONVENIENT FOR DAY OF DISCUSSIONS AT US EXIMBANK.

2. SUMITA SAID IF ABOVE SCHEDULE NOT FEASIBLE FROM EITHER MOSCOW OR WASHINGTON POINT OF VIEW, ALTERNATE DATES COULD BE WASHINGTON SEPT 6 AND MOSCOW SEPT 10-11; HOWEVER, HE PREFERRED THAT TALKS IN WASHINGTON PRECEDE VISIT OF SOVIET DELEGATION TO US.

3. SUMITA WILL BE ACCOMPANIED TO WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW
O
BY JUNICHI NAKAGAWA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF COORDINATION DEPT OF JAPN EXIM; ICHIRO SHIMBA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EXIM; AND INTERPRETER. EXIM CHIEF WASHINGTON REP. R. KONDO, WOULD ALSO PLAN TO JOIN DISCUSSIONS.

4. SUMITA NOTED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ECONCOM/MIN THAT HE BELIEVED SOVIETS LIKELY TO ACCEPT DATES AUGUST 22-23 SINCE THEY WERE ANXIOUS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PROJECT, O AND IF POSSIBLE TO BEGIN EXPLORATION DURING UPCOMING WINTER SEASON, SINCE EXPLORATION ONLY POSSIBLE IN YAKUTSKI AREA FROM OCTOBER TO APRIL.

5. SUMITA FULLY REALIZES HE HAS PRESENTED DIFFICULT SVHEDULING PROBLEM, AND IS OPEN TO OTHER SUGGESTIONS IF ABOVE ALTERNATIVES NOT SUITABLE, OR IF EXPECTED VISIT OF OSIPOV DELEGATION TO US DOES NOT MATERIALIZE ON SCHEDULE. SUMITA HOWEVER APPARENTLY DOES NOT WANT TO BE IN US AT SAME TIME AS OSIPOV.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IF EXIM WILLING CONSULT WITH SUMITA ON POSSIBLE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FINANCING YAKUTSK PROJECT, PLEASE ADVISE AS TO ACCEPTABILITY OF SUMITA'S PGOPOSED DATES OR OTHER SUGGESTED TIMING.
SHOESMITH

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